

3/31/04

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

~~In re~~ Application of:

Serial No.: 10/790,537

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: March 1, 2004

Examiner: N/A

Title: FIBER OPTIC SPLICE COMPONENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document(s) listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing date of the application, but, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of the listed document(s) are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document(s) and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed document(s) are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the document(s) as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document(s), should one or more of the document(s) be applied against the claims of the present application.

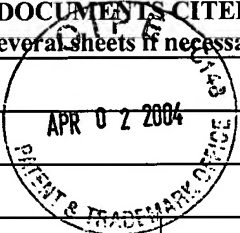
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 3/31/04

<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office</b>				<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>  HE0221		<b>Serial Number:</b>  10/790,537	
<b>LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)							
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>				<b>Applicant:</b> James G. Renfro, Jr. et al.			
				<b>Filing Date:</b> 3/1/04		<b>Group:</b> TBD	
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>Examiner Initial</b>		<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Filing Date if Appropriate</b>
	AA	5,249,246	9/28/93	Szanto	385	96	6/29/92
	AB	5,222,171	6/22/93	Straus	385	96	10/21/91
	AC	4,598,974	7/8/86	Munn et al.	350	96.21	8/15/85
	AD	4,102,582	7/25/78	Lord et al.	356	241	11/9/76
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Translation Yes   No</b>
	AK	DE4102582C1	6/4/92	Germany	G02B	6/255	No
	AL						
	A M						
	AN						
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AO	News Release, FURUKAWA ELECTRIC DEVELOPS ULTRA-MINIATURE OPTICAL FIBER FUSION SPLICER FOR FTTH, January 17, 2003, pages 1-2.					
	AP						
	AQ						
<b>EXAMINER</b>						<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>	

\*EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.